Promotion of tourism in Orissa

1611. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote tourism, a long-term tourist visa with multi-entry facility for the nationals of 18 countries has been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is" a quantum jump in tourist arrivals in the last fiscal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to promote tourism in Orissa, which is the tourist hub of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to grant Long-Term Tourist Visa of a five year duration, with multi entry facilities to the nationals of 18 countries, namely France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Vietnam. This Long-Term visa carries stay stipulation of 90 days on each visit.

(c) and (d) In the year 2006, the country received 4429915 foreign tourists as compared to 3918610 in 2005 *i.e.,* an increase of 13%.

(e) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism through its Indiatourism offices overseas promotes all tourist destinations including Orissa through various marketing tools like participation in travel fairs, dissemination of information, organisation of roadshows and India evenings, inviting travel trade and opinion makers under hospitality programme etc.